

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01085 081133Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 /059 W

----- 064920

R 080930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8060

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CZ, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV VIEW OF CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION

1. DURING CALL ON YUGOSLAV DCM RODIC MAY 7, DCM ASKED HIS VIEWS ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DCM NOTED THAT POLITIKA DESPATCH WAS BEING WIDELY QUOTED AROUND TOWN TO EFFECT THAT HUSAK WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT SHORTLY AFTER MAY 9. THIS YUGOSLAV ARTICLE HAD HELPED REV UP THE RUMOR MILL, AND WE WONDERED WHAT INFORMATION THEY HAD.

2. RODIC SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE POLITIKA ARTICLE BUT THE YUGOSLAVS DID THINK HUSAK WOULD ASCEND TO THE PRESIDENCY PERHAPS BY THE END OF MAY, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT DIRECTLY AFTER MAY 9. THE EARLIER AGREEMENT TO WAIT FOR SVOBODA'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01085 081133Z

DEATH BEFORE NAMING A NEW PRESIDENT WAS COMING UNGLUED,

BECAUSE TOO MANY THINGS WERE HANGING FIRE. THE YUGOSLAVS STILL THOUGHT HUSAK WOULD DEFINITELY RETAIN THE PARTY GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP AS WELL.

3. AS FOR THE ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN, THE YUGOSLAVS THOUGHT HUSAK HAD BEEN FORCED INTO IT BY EXTREME PRESSURE FROM THE HARD-LINERS ("RADICALS"). IN ORDER TO SHOW THEM WHO WAS IN CHARGE, HUSAK HAD TO STEAL THEIR THUNDER BY THIS STRONG ATTACK ON DUBCEK AND HIS FRIENDS. THIS WAS ONE ELEMENT. ANOTHER WAS THAT "THE OPPOSITION" HAD BECOME ANNOYING, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF CSCE AND EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE AND SO ON. RODIC SAID "THE OPPOSITION" WAS STILL PLANNING THINGS, INCLUDING THE 200-PAGE DOCUMENT THAT HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PRESS; AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DUBCEK HAD WRITTEN SOME OTHER THINGS. HUSAK WANTED TO NIP THIS CAMPAIGN IN THE BUD BY SHOWING HIS FIST.

4. ASKED ABOUT FUTURE OF ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN, RODIC SAID AFTER MAY 9 YUGOSLAVS EXPECTED AN EXTREMELY STRONG RESUMPTION OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME "ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES" (TRIALS AND THE LIKE). THE PARTY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE BEING SEIZED WITH THE CAMPAIGN (ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LOT OF QUESTIONING AS TO WHY NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO READ THE DUBCEK LETTER BEFORE CONDEMNING IT). THE YUGOSLAVS EXPECTED A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN.

5. ASKED ABOUT HUSAK'S POSITION, RODIC SAID THEY SAW NO REASON TO THINK HE HAD SLIPPED, ALTHOUGH HE HAD CERTAINLY BEEN UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE. HE ATTRIBUTED BREZHNEV'S FAILURE TO COME TO PRAGUE TO SOVIET RATHER THAN CZECHOSLOVAK REASONS (I.E., NON-VISIT DID NOT MEAN LACK OF SUPPORT FOR HUSAK, EVEN IF SOME OUTSIDERS MIGHT CERTAINLY TAKE IT THAT WAY).

6. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF KREMLIN DEVELOPMENTS. RODIC SAID FALL OF SHELEPIN WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, BUT HE WAS NOT YET SURE WHICH POLICY ISSUES SHELEPIN HAD BEEN FIGHTING BREZHNEV ON AND THEREFORE WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAD CAUSED HIS DOWNFALL. RODIC FOUND IT CURIOUS THAT AGENDA FOR CPSU CONGRESS WAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED, AND FELT THE LEADERS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01085 081133Z

DEBATING THIS, WHILE THE JOCKEYING FOR POSITION WAS GOING ON WHICH WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL FEBRUARY. HE WONDERED IF BREZHNEV'S DECISION NOT TO COME TO PRAGUE MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH DESIRE NOT TO BE AWAY WHEN POST-SHELEPIN-DOWNFALL DELIBERATIONS WERE GOING ON.

7. FINALLY, RODIC SAID THAT FROM YUGOSLAV VIEWPOINT, MOST DANGEROUS THING ABOUT THE ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN WAS THAT FOR

FIRST TIME, HUSAK AND OTHERS WERE SAYING THAT SOCIALISM, I.E.
THAT BREZHNEV DOCTRINE WAS REAL AND BINDING. IMPLICATIONS
FOR YUGOSLAVIA FOR THIS LINE (AND NOT ONLY YUGOSLAVIA, HE
SAID) WERE OMINOUS, AND THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS PRESENT
USAGE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750161-0920
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750569/aaaacldg.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV VIEW OF CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, CZ, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006